UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/709
S/1996/1014
6 December 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
QUESTION OF CYPRUS
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS; HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 5 December 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 4 December 1996, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 58 and 110 (b) and (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 4 December 1996 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the 47th meeting of the Third Committee held on 21 November 1996 under agenda item 110 (b) and (c) (see A/C.3/51/SR.47). This statement contains allegations that grossly distort the realities of Cyprus and demonstrate yet again that the other side is more interested in political posturing than the building of confidence and reconciliation.

The Greek Cypriot representative, in a vain attempt to absolve the Greek Cypriot side from the responsibility of causing the existing division in the island, once again refers to the legitimate presence of a guarantor power as an "occupation". I wish to reiterate that the only occupation in Cyprus is the 33-year-old occupation of the seat of government of the once bicommunal Republic of Cyprus by the Greek Cypriot side.

Contrary to the allegations made by the Greek Cypriot representative, the Cyprus question and the present division of the island have not come about as a result of the Turkish intervention of 1974, but by the Greek-Greek Cypriot conspiracy and overt acts of violence during the period 1963-1974 aimed at converting the bicommunal Cyprus State into a Greek Cypriot one. This is admitted by the leader of the Greek Cypriot community, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, in his memoirs entitled "Cyprus: My Deposition", in the following manner: "... the Greek Cypriot preoccupation was that Cyprus should be a Greek Cypriot State, with a protected Turkish Cypriot minority" (vol. 3, p. 105).

The Turkish intervention which followed the coup d'état engineered by Greece in 1974, which was described by the Greek Cypriot side's own leader, Archbishop Makarios, in his speech before the Security Council on 19 July 1974 as "an invasion" (see S/PV.1780) had been necessitated by the naked aggression and blatant attempt by Greece to annex the island (enosis). One should recall that the Turkish intervention in Cyprus was carried out against the background of an 11-year-long systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing directed against the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriot side, acting in collusion with Greece. With the coup d'état of 1974, the threat of total annihilation of the Turkish Cypriots at the hands of the combined forces of Greece and their collaborators in Cyprus had become imminent. Turkey's action was, therefore, a necessary act that saved the lives of an entire community and preserved the bicommunal independence of Cyprus.

It hardly needs to be stressed that Turkey's presence on the island, which emanates from the Treaty of Guarantee of 1960, is a vital security requirement for the Turkish Cypriots, as it serves as a deterrent against the repetition of Greek-Greek Cypriot aggression against the Turkish Cypriot people. In the face of the unprecedented build-up of arms and armed forces by the Greek Cypriot administration and the implementation of the so-called "joint defence doctrine" with Greece, the necessity of maintaining the Turkish deterrent becomes all the more obvious.

As regards the question of displaced persons, it should be mentioned that nearly four fifths of the Turkish Cypriot population have been rendered refugees or become displaced persons since 1963, some of them several times over, as a result of the Greek Cypriot side's attempts to annex Cyprus to Greece. It should be recalled that the issue of displaced persons has been fundamentally settled between the two sides through the Third Vienna Agreement dated 2 August 1975, whereby the two sides formally agreed to exchange populations. The Agreement was implemented under United Nations supervision in September 1975, paving the way for a bizonal, bicommunal settlement of the Cyprus issue. Both the Agreement and its implementation are well recorded in the relevant United Nations documents (see S/11789 of 5 August 1975 and S/11789/Add.1 of 10 September 1975).

On the question of the so-called "settlers", it should be pointed out that it is the Greek Cypriot side, which, together with Greece, has always attempted to alter the demographic character of Cyprus, not only by introducing thousands of settlers from Greece since the 1940s but also by trying to "cleanse" Cyprus of its ethnic Turkish population. At present, the Greek Cypriot administration continues to admit tens of thousands of people from other countries, and, as a result of the laxity of its immigration policies, South Cyprus has become, as widely reported in the international press, a centre for money-laundering, drugs and arms smuggling and other illicit activity.

Concerning the so-called "enclaved" Greek Cypriots, it is noteworthy that the term "enclaves" was first used in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General to describe the areas which Turkish Cypriots had been forced into by the Greek Cypriot side during the period between 1963 and 1974. Lately, the Greek Cypriot propaganda machine has been trying to utilize this term with a view to exploiting the presence of several hundred Greek Cypriots living in Northern Cyprus. The fact is that there have been no "enclaved" people in Cyprus since the liberation of the Turkish Cypriots by Turkey in 1974.

In connection with the recent border incidents in Cyprus, the Greek Cypriot representative conveniently glosses over the deadly Greek commando attack on a Turkish Cypriot Security Forces sentry post in the area of Güvercinlik village on 8 September 1996, which resulted in the murder of a Turkish Cypriot soldier and the seriously wounding of another. Moreover, by only looking at the outcome of the incidents and not at who provoked and caused them in the first place, the Greek Cypriot representative tries to hide the fact that these tragic incidents are a direct result of the Greek Cypriot side's massive violation of the United Nations-controlled buffer zone and our borders. This is clearly part of the other side's larger policy of escalation and tension on the island aimed at keeping the Cyprus issue alive on the agenda of the international community.

We would like to urge the Greek Cypriot side to abandon this policy of escalation and tension in the island as it only serves to deepen further the existing mistrust between the two peoples in Cyprus and hurts chances for a negotiated settlement. We also wish to call upon the other side to stop exploiting the question of human rights as an instrument of political propaganda and focus instead on how to revive the process of negotiations. The Greek Cypriot side must realize that the only viable option is to resume the direct

dialogue and should desist from all rhetoric and action which are bound to harm prospects for a just and lasting solution.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 58 and 110 (b) and (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus